
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an estimated
2 2,700,000 children nationwide have at least one parent that is
3 incarcerated, and studies conducted by the National Fatherhood
4 Initiative show that in terms of negative impacts on children,
5 incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the
6 divorce of parents. Even more disheartening is the evidence
7 that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become
8 incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing
9 the "cycle of incarceration" that sadly becomes generational in
10 some families.

11 These statistics have not gone unnoticed by children- and
12 family-serving organizations in Hawaii who have developed
13 mentoring and other types of social services aimed at assisting
14 these children. However, there continues to be major gaps in
15 services for these children because funding for programs aimed
16 at helping them has never been prioritized, largely due to a
17 lack of data to justify the extent of the problem in Hawaii.

18 This is especially true for service providers who are trying to



1 access federal funding that is programmed to assist children and
2 families and break the cycle of incarceration.

3 In January 2014, the legislative keiki caucus established a
4 working group to explore the issues surrounding children and
5 families impacted by incarceration. Called the family
6 reunification working group, the group was comprised of
7 representatives from several organizations and service providers
8 and parents of children who have been affected by incarceration.
9 The group established two immediate priorities, one of which was
10 to develop a database of children in Hawaii impacted by
11 incarceration. During the past year, the working group explored
12 various ways to collect the data needed to identify the number
13 and basic demographics of these children and concluded that the
14 fastest and easiest way to collect the essential data was to ask
15 for this data on forms currently used by the department of
16 public safety's corrections division to intake offenders
17 entering the Hawaii corrections system.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
20 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§353- Incarcerated parents; data collection. Beginning
2 on July 1, 2016, the department shall collect the following data
3 upon intake of offenders into the correctional system:

4 (1) The number of offenders who are parents;

5 (2) The number of children under the age of eighteen, per
6 offender who is a parent; and

7 (3) Any other information about incarcerated parents and
8 their children that the department deems useful to
9 facilitate the provision of services to incarcerated
10 parents or their children."

11 SECTION 3. The department of public safety, in
12 collaboration with the family reunification working group
13 established by the legislative keiki caucus and other
14 stakeholders, shall devise the forms or questions to be asked of
15 offenders upon intake into the correctional system to obtain the
16 information required pursuant to section 2 of this Act. The
17 department of public safety shall also develop a plan for the
18 management of the data collected and public disclosure of the
19 data in accordance with all applicable laws.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Public Safety; Incarcerated Parent Data

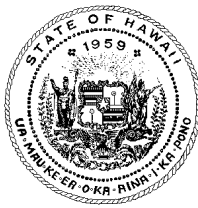
Description:

Requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents, the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen, and any other information that the department of public safety deems useful to facilitate services to incarcerated parents or their children.

(SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
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Corrections

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Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 913, SENATE DRAFT 1
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 10:05AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 913, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which would require the PSD to collect data relating to the number of offenders coming into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have under the age of eighteen. The PSD recognizes that family reunification could have a positive impact on a child's developmental process, as well as, lower the recidivism outcome for offenders.

The PSD, working collaboratively with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), conducted a pilot project during the month of February 2015, surveying offenders admitted into the community correctional facilities. Due to limitations of staffing and capturing data electronically, this project collected the very basic information that is specified in this bill, and the information collected was on a self-report basis.

The data collected from this project revealed that of the 1,068 offenders who were surveyed during this time frame, 360 (34%) reported having children under the age of 18 years old. Of those reporting to have children, 75% were males (270) and 25% were females (90). Although females with children made up only 25% of the total number of offenders who reported being

parents, 40% of all females admitted into correctional centers during this time frame reported being parents of minor children. The overall average of children reported was 2.2 per offender, with a range of one to thirteen children.

Without additional funding, the PSD would not be able to expand on the data being collected, provide staff training to ensure that the questions asked are reliable and the responses are recorded accurately, enhance statistical analysis, or initiate verification of the responses provided by offenders. It is the PSD's position that the very basic data collection could continue as it did during the pilot period without the need for legislative mandates.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate, Executive Director, AMAC

Before the House Committee on
Public Safety

Thursday, March 19, 2015
10:05 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**In SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 913 SD 1
Relating to Public Safety**

Senate Bill 913 SD 1 requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents, the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen, and any other information that the department of public safety deems useful to facilitate services to incarcerated parents or their children.

The Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational resource knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 43 moku and more than 500 ahupua'a. This knowledge is handed down generation to generation by experts in site-specific resource methodology. However, in the past decades the percentage of Native Hawaiians who have been incarcerated has risen. Tragically, a new trend of gaps in the generational knowledge of resource methodology can and probably does occur when the children of incarcerated parents are not given the opportunity to learn traditional practices because one or more of their parents are incarcerated.

We believe that Native Hawaiian children are impacted by the trauma of having parents sent to prison. This bill begins the necessary process of identifying and addressing the needs of children with incarcerated parents by requiring the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children.

We strongly support SB 913 and urge this committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa.



SB913 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
House Committee on Public Safety

March 19, 2015

10:05 a.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB913 SD1. **OHA collaborated with community groups and interested stakeholders to proffer a very similar version of this bill, which takes a long-awaited first step towards identifying and addressing the unique needs of Hawai'i's keiki with incarcerated parents, by requiring the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to the children of prisoners.**

A growing body of national research demonstrates that children whose parents are incarcerated may experience great trauma as a result of their parents' incarceration. For example, such children may face separation from their families, displacement from their homes, social stigmas, emotional isolation, and a lack of financial and other resources. Consequently, children with incarcerated parents often suffer from emotional distress, developmental challenges, poor academic performance, aggressive behavior, and truancy. These children are three times more likely to suffer from depression or behavioral problems and twice as likely to suffer from learning disabilities and anxiety than the average American child.¹ Moreover, in the long-term, these children may also be much more likely to enter the criminal justice system themselves.

Addressing the unique needs of children with incarcerated parents is of particular concern to the Native Hawaiian community. In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. This report found that Native Hawaiians comprise 39 percent of the adult incarcerated population, while they account for just 24 percent of the general population.² Native Hawaiians are also more likely to have children in their households than other state households.³ Such data strongly indicate that Native Hawaiian children may be most greatly impacted by parental incarceration; therefore, understanding and addressing the needs of this very vulnerable population is a key concern within the Hawaiian community. The Native Hawaiian Criminal Justice Task Force noted this concern in its 2012 report, recommending that state agencies involved with the criminal

¹ Kristin Turney, *Stress Proliferation Across Generations? Examining the Relationship Between Parental Incarceration and Childhood Health*, JOURNAL OF HEALTH AND SOC. BEHAVIOR, vol. 55 no. 3 (2014).

² THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 36 (2010), http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir_final_web_rev.pdf

³ THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS DATA BOOK, Table 1.31, <http://www.ohadatabook.com/T01-31-13.pdf> (2013).

justice system better collect and integrate data on incarcerated individuals and that resources specifically be directed toward children of incarcerated parents to reduce intergenerational incarceration.⁴

Unfortunately, to date, no process exists in Hawai‘i to systematically collect information on such children to identify and address their unique needs. Previously, in 2006 and again in 2008, a legislatively-created task force identified a lack of data as a major roadblock to the provision of programs and services supporting children of incarcerated parents. Until now, nothing has been done to address this concern.

Recently, the Department of Public Safety conducted a pilot project to explore the type of data that could be collected on this topic with minimal costs to staff time and other resources. Throughout February 2015, the Department’s Intake Service Center administered verbal questions pertaining to parentage during the jail intake process and found that of the 1,068 individuals who were processed, 33.7 percent identified themselves as parents of at least one child under the age of 18. This study was only preliminary; it did not account for the bias against self-identification among offenders fearing potential loss of their parental rights, for duplication of results where a child might have two incarcerated parents reporting them, or for inflation due to multiple short terms of incarceration served by individual parents. However, this brief study revealed that as many as 781 children in Hawai‘i may have been affected by the loss of a parent to incarceration in only one month. Such results highlight the need to more systematically collect information to identify and address the unique needs of these particularly vulnerable keiki.

SB913 SD1 revives the decade-long effort to better understand the number and unique needs of children of incarcerated parents. The systematic data collection required under this bill is an essential first step in establishing a comprehensive body of data to support the development of programs and services for the children of incarcerated parents, helping our most vulnerable keiki adjust and thrive and reducing the long-term consequences of their unaddressed needs.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** SB913 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

⁴ 2012 NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REP. sec.A, at 27, sec. C, at 28, <http://www.oha.org/nativehawaiianjusticetaskforce>.

yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:09 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments:

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yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 6:41 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: ikepono@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	King Kamehameha HCC	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	Ewa Puuloa Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

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yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM

SB913

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: The Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club continues to support this measure and urges your passage of it. Leimomi Khan, President

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FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

TO: Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety

HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2015
10:05 am
Conference Room 309

FROM: Judith Wilhoite
Family Advocate
Family Programs Hawai'i, It Takes An `Ohana Program

RE: SB 913 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's *It Takes An `Ohana* (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver. I, along with my ITAO Advisory Committee, strongly support SB 913.

Many of our foster children's parents are incarcerated, deeply impacting the lives of these children. Some of the best research on the lifelong effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on children comes from the CDC-Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study¹, a groundbreaking public health study. One of the ACEs looked at in this study is having a parent in prison.

ACEs normally do not occur in isolation and that is certainly true with our foster children. People have an ACE score of 0 to 10. Each type of trauma counts as one, no matter how many times it occurs. People with high ACE scores are more likely to be violent, to have more broken bones, more drug prescriptions, more depression, and more autoimmune diseases.

As resource caregivers, we see firsthand how challenging it can be for the biological parents of the children in our care to reestablish themselves in society and to re-establish healthy relationships with their family. Our understanding is that with the right set of data, organizations such as *Blueprint for Change* will be able to apply for federal funds to help imprisoned parents have a better chance of a successful transition to life on the outside and with family. When that happens, **we all benefit**, especially foster children who may then be able to return to biological parents who are better equipped to parent them in healthy, appropriate ways.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 913 to help begin the process of bringing much needed resources to our families impacted by incarceration!

¹ Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults, <http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797%2898%2900017-8/fulltext>

March 17, 2015n

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Kyle Yamashita, ice-Chair, House Committee on Public Safety

Re: SB 9113-SD1, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Representatives Takayama, Yamashita and Members of the Committee

My name is Gail Breakey, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Family Support Institute in strong support of SB 913, SD1., which would require the Department of Public Safety to collect data related to children of incarcerated parents.

Studies show that the negative impact upon children of having a parent incarcerated is worse than death or divorce. 80% of children of incarcerated parents live with grandparents (Edelman, 2008) Due to length of incarcerations, most mothers lose parental rights. Children of incarcerated parents are at risk for serious problems including:

- Deep trauma (Child Watch Column: “Mothers Rocking the Prison Cradle”, Marian Wright Edelman, June 20, 2008)
- Guilt and self-blame (Edelman, 2008)
- Attachment disorders (Gayle Goodman, PhD from Presentation at Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii Conference, 2007)
- Damaged social-emotional development (Goodman, 2007)
- Emotional and behavior problems (Edelman, 2008)
- Poor academic performance (Edelman, 2008)
- Juvenile delinquency (Edelman, 2008)
- Substance abuse (Edelman, 2008)
- Problems with the criminal justice system (Edelman, 2008)
- Children involved in child welfare and foster care have high rates of future incarceration. (Responding to Alcohol and Drugs in Child Welfare, CWLA, 1998)

Clearly providing early intervention and support to children of incarcerated parents is needed and can break the cycle of trauma and incarceration. At present, there is no real information as to exactly how many children are involved, their ages, where they reside, etc. A first step to addressing this issue is to have some basic data.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Executive Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute

Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health

FIRST RELATIONSHIPS

President Sharon Taba
President-Elect Joey
Keahiolalo
Secretary Naomi Kau
Treasurer Gail Breakey

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Patria Weston-Lee
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March 17, 2015

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Public Safety

Re: SB 913, SD-1, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Representatives Takayama, Yamashita and Members of the Committee

My name is Gail Breakey, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health in strong support for SB 913, SD1, which would require the Department of Public Safety to collect data related to children of incarcerated parents. Children of incarcerated parents are at risk for serious emotional problems including deep trauma issues, guilt and self-blame (Marian Wright Edelman, 2008), attachment disorders and damaged social emotional development (Gayle Goodman, PhD 2007). Without intervention, these problems later result in poor academic performance, substance abuse, delinquency and high rates of future incarceration.

It is necessary to have some basic data in regard to these children in order to plan services for these children, including how many children are involved, their ages and where they live. This is a first step in dealing with this problem, which otherwise will result in continued and escalating costs of incarceration

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely



Gail Breakey, Policy Committee
Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 19, 2015

10:05 a.m.

Room 309

SUPPORT for SB 913 SD1- Data Collection on Children of Incarcerated Parents

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that more than 1,600, and soon to be rising number of Hawai'i individuals who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 913 SD1 requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure.

This is not a recently uncovered fact. In 1991, the National Institute of Justice reported that, "Children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely to end up incarcerated themselves." This is a clarion call to pay attention to the needs of these children.

Hawai'i highlighted the issue in 2003 with a gathering to raise awareness. The Legislature funded a Task Force and then renewed it; however, it was difficult to get agency cooperation to collect the necessary data. This appears to have changed and we are hopeful.

To date, Hawai'i has no data on who these children are and where they reside. The Angel Tree, a group that provides Christmas gifts to these children, has been the state's only source for data on these children, but it is not an official number.

Inserting a few lines on the intake service form is at least a start to determine just how many children/youth under 18 years old are impacted by parental incarceration. We *can* stop the flow of intergenerational incarceration when we stop ignoring the fact that every incarcerated person

comes from a family, and that the families suffer from incarceration as well as the imprisoned person.

An article from December 2014¹ cites much of the current thinking on the issue of children with incarcerated parents:

“Even for kids at high risk of problems, parental incarceration makes a bad situation worse,” concluded Christopher Wildeman and Sara Wakefield in their recently published book, Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality.

Wildeman and Wakefield found that children with incarcerated fathers were **three times more likely** than peers from similar backgrounds **to become homeless**. They also suffered significantly **higher rates of behavioral and mental-health problems, most notably aggression**.

Kristin Turney, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Irvine, reached similar conclusions in a report published this past September. Turney found that children with incarcerated parents were **three times more likely to suffer from depression or behavioral problems** than the average American child, and **twice as likely to suffer from learning disabilities and anxiety**.

Within the last few years, however, a broad range of agencies and policy-makers have begun to frame the nation’s prison boom as a children’s issue. Last summer, the Justice Department launched a wide-reaching campaign to provide support to the children of imprisoned parents – by rethinking visitation policies and changing the protocol for arresting parents in front of children, for example. In August, the American Bar Foundation and the National Science Foundation invited key researchers, advocates and federal officials to the White House for a conference to discuss reducing the “collateral costs” to children and communities when parents are incarcerated. The conference was part of a larger inter-agency initiative begun in 2012 to focus the attention of participating agencies, including the Department of Education, on the children of incarcerated parents. A few months later, in November, the Federal Bureau of Prisons hosted its first-ever Universal Children’s Day, an event attended by nearly 8,500 children visiting more than 4,000 federal inmates.

Children’s television has provided a pop-culture barometer of the issue’s increased prominence. Last summer, Sesame Street introduced Alex, a blue-haired Muppet whose father is in jail. “I don’t like to talk about it,” Alex told his furry friends, describing his emotions. “Most people don’t understand. I just miss him so much. It just hurts inside.... But then sometimes I feel like I just want to pound on a pillow and scream as loud as I can.”

As you can see, this issue is finally gaining national prominence.

¹ Mass Incarceration’s Collateral Damage: The Children Left Behind, Katy Reckdahl, December 16, 2014. <http://www.thenation.com/article/193121/mass-incarcerations-collateral-damage-children-left-behind#>

The Alliance for Children conducted research on the costs of incarcerating parents², below is some of their conclusions:

“The extent of the costs implicated in incarcerating parents is hidden from view because, like some diseases, these costs hide in many corners of the body politic and they reemerge at different times after the initial crisis. The full inventory of both costs and benefits is probably more robust than what we have inventoried here.

(...)

The shape of the equation for society is nevertheless clear. **Incarceration is an immensely costly form of social control.** We can now appreciate that these costs do not devolve primarily on the punished person, even when the value of their loss of freedom (i.e., quality of life) is considered. Instead, about **four-tenths (40%) the total social cost of placing a parent behind bars is the public's loss**, while the losses borne directly by the offender are considerably smaller (26%). ...”

The findings by Lengyel and Brown in a follow up study 2009³ produced a set of recommendations for corrections policy and judicial practice in Hawai'i, several of which have been advanced in prior studies (Lengyel and Harris 2003; Lengyel 2006).

Finding:

The cost of incarcerating drug offenders greatly exceeds the corresponding social benefit.

Recommendations:

- Practice selective non-incarceration. Shift from incarceration to community supervision and support for certain classes of inmates who are now facing sentencing or serving time.
- Savings from prisoner diversion should be invested in programs that delay or forestall incarceration, such as drug abuse treatment and education, job training, and economic opportunity.

Finding:

Families, grandparents, and relatives bear the greatest share of costs imposed by the incarceration of a parent. They seldom have adequate resources to fulfill the role they play in the lives of the parent and the parent's children.

Recommendations:

- Initiate supports for partners, grandparents, and relative caregivers of children with parents in prison, including respite care, housing assistance, parenting support, and material support.

Finding:

Substance abuse treatment services are an appropriate alternative for the majority of drug offenders, but these services are grossly inadequate in prison and fall far short of the need in the community.

Recommendations:

- Provide appropriate substance abuse treatment on demand both in the community and in prison.

² *Spreading the Pain: The Social Cost of Incarcerating Parents*, Thomas E. Lengyel, Department of Research & Evaluation Services, Alliance for Children and Families, September 2006.

<http://www.alliance1.org/pubs/archive/Incarceration%20%2526%20Corrections/spreading-the-pain-parents>

³ *Everyone Pays: A Social Cost Analysis of Incarcerating Parents for Drug Offenses in Hawai'i*, Executive Summary, Thomas E. Lengyel and Marilyn Brown, August 2009

Finding:

Hawai'i lacks accurate knowledge of its parent-prisoners and their children.

Recommendations:

- Keep demographic information on all children, on custody (legal and informal), on care giving arrangements, and on services needed or anticipated.
- Integrate family information into the Department of Public Safety central databank on prisoners on a regular basis.

Finding:

Placement on the mainland, based on administrative considerations, forecloses the possibility of visits and imposes stiff costs on families attempting to stay connected.

Recommendations:

- The Department of Public Safety should factor in the ability to maintain parent-child contact when making prison placements.
- Parent inmates should be placed on the basis of "the best interest of the family."

Finding:

The social costs of incarceration are largely hidden from public view, and remain unacknowledged by the courts when they dispense justice.

Recommendations:

- All presentence investigations that recommend incarceration should include an estimate of the social costs of the recommended term based on the parameters documented in this study, as well as the cost of the best reasonable alternative. Judges should explicitly incorporate these estimates in their sentencing decisions, and should acknowledge in court the weight given to them

In 2009, the federal government issues an action plan⁴ for addressing this issue.

1. Support a review of law enforcement policies related to arrests of individuals whose children (or children under their care) are present at the time they are taken into custody, and individuals whose children may return home and be unattended because of their arrest.
2. Encourage the development of policy standards at the local or state level in cooperation with law enforcement on the response to the arrest of a caretaker parent or guardian of a minor child to ensure the child's safety and well-being.
3. Collect and disseminate program and policy examples from law enforcement agencies who have adopted promising approaches to unforeseen contact with children of incarcerated parents.
4. Share widely best practices on developing formal partnerships among law enforcement, child welfare agencies, and other providers to coordinate services for children of arrested parents.
5. Develop systems to collect data on the number and percentage of (1) arrestees who are custodial parents, and (2) children present at the time of arrest or who were left unattended because of the arrest, to document the breadth of the problem and understand the circumstances that lead to such arrests.

⁴ Children of Incarcerated Parents: *An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers*, Jessica Nickel, Crystal Garland, Leah Kane, Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2009.

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/publications/children-of-incarcerated-parents-an-action-plan-for-federal-policymakers/>

6. Support the implementation of training and protocols to minimize as much as possible the trauma to a child who is present during an arrest and sensitize arresting officers to the potential long-term impact.
7. Encourage local jurisdictions to adopt identified best practices for improving responses to children who are present during a parent's arrest.
8. Conduct additional research on the impact of parental arrest when a child is present, including the effects of home raids on children and the success of existing protocols and training tools to minimize risk.

Community Alliance on Prisons is heartened that there is a national recognition of the collateral consequences of incarceration. The social costs, as analyzed by these Hawai'i studies and numerous national studies, make it very clear that we are headed down the wrong path if we continue to pass punitive laws that incarcerate those folks we are frustrated with.

Incarceration should be the LAST RESORT. **It has been our experience that most incarcerated parents want to maintain relationships with their children.**

If we don't pay attention to the trauma that mass incarceration has wreaked on our children and families, we will continue to feed the very hungry perpetual prisoner machine. Here is a chart that illustrates the interconnecting pattern of childhood trauma, emotional response, reactive behavior and potential criminal activity that can lead to intergenerational incarceration absent positive intervention.

Intergenerational Behaviors, Crime and Incarceration				
Childhood Trauma	Emotional Response	Reactive Behavior	Coping Pattern	Criminal Activity
Physical abuse	Anger	Physical aggression	Fighting w/peers	Assault
Parent-child separation	Sadness, grief	Withdrawal	Substance abuse	Drug possession
Witness to violence	Anxiety	Hypervigilance	Gang activity	Accessory to homicide
Parental substance abuse	Anger	Verbal aggression	Asocial behavior (lying, stealing)	Fraud
Sexual molestation	Fear, anxiety	Sexualized behavior	Promiscuity	Prostitution

Source: Dr. Denise Johnston, "Effects of Parental Incarceration," in Gabel and Johnston, p. 81. Incarceration," in Gabel and Johnston, p. 81.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committee to pass this measure so that we can stop the intergenerational incarceration with which Hawai'i is all too familiar.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony Submitted to the
Committee on Public Safety
In Support of SB913, SD1, Relating to Public Safety
Thursday, March 19, 2015
10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the President of the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club and the Secretary of the Board of Living Life Source Foundation. Both of these organizations are deeply committed to the well-being of Native Hawaiian youth and families.

We **strongly support** SB913, SD1 and ask for your serious consideration.

SB913 requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.

This information is critical to ensuring that the children of incoming offenders receive the economic, educational, social and healing support that they need to overcome the challenges that their families face.

A growing body of national research demonstrates that children whose parents are sent to jail may experience great trauma, as a result of their parents' incarceration. This bill takes a long-awaited first step towards identifying and addressing the unique needs of Hawai'i's keiki with incarcerated parents, by authorizing the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. This bill would require DPS, through its prisoner intake centers, to collect or coordinate the collection of data on the number of parents entering the prison system, the number of children of such parents, and any other information the department may find useful in facilitating services to meet these keiki's needs.

Our keiki are so very precious. Please take this important first step to help alleviate their pain and suffering.

Mahalo nui loa.

March 18, 2015

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

On behalf of Native Hawaiian and non-Native Hawaiian families, communities, I strongly SUPPORT SB913 which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children.

The population of children of incarcerated parents is one of our State's most neglected yet critical social issue of our time. Remediating the intergenerational effects of incarceration and the trauma that it manifests in our communities will begin with this first step in collecting data on our keiki affected by incarceration. Only then can we begin to understand how to best intervene or prevent negative long term costs to these keiki and to our state's public safety, health, human services, and work force systems.

This bill could also support long-term access to grant funding and allow the community to equip itself with the information to provide consistent, effective services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo for your time,

Camille Mariko Rockett
Research Director
Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers

yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:44 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: nikki@afyhawaii.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun	Adult Friends for Youth	Support	Yes

Comments:

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TESTIMONY ON SB 913, SD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

March 19, 2015

10:05 am

Conference Rm. 309

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair, Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SB 913, SD 1 Relating to Public Safety.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for seven Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. Historically, our work has focused on traditional risk factors for child abuse, including homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disabilities. However, two years ago, after much research and analysis, BFC determined that most severe and underserved risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that there is at least one parent who is incarcerated.

An estimated 2.7 million children nationwide have at least one parent that is incarcerated, and studies conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative show that in terms of negative impacts on children, incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the divorce of parents. Even more disheartening is the evidence that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing the “cycle of incarceration” that sadly becomes generational in some families.

The reason service providers don’t have this data is because it is not being collected by the State.

In January 2014, the Legislative Keiki Caucus, at the request of BFC and the Hawaii Prisoners Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, established a working group to explore the issues surrounding children and families impacted by incarceration. Called the Family Reunification Working Group (FRWG), the group is comprised of representatives from several organizations and service providers, including Blueprint for Change, Hawaii Prisoners Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, ALU LIKE, Inc., Queen Lili`uokalani Children’s Center, Keiki O Ka Aina Learning Centers, Family Programs Hawaii, Adult Friends for Youth, Community Alliance on Prisons, TJ Mahoney, Chaminade University’s Native Hawaiian Program, Hawaii Technology Institute, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery, and Makana O Ke Akua Clean and Sober Living. It also included parents of children who have been affected by incarceration. The group established two immediate priorities to work on, one of which was to develop a database of children in Hawaii impacted by incarceration, and during the past year, it explored various ways to collect the data needed to identify the number and basic demographics of these children. After much discussion and analysis, it concluded that the fastest and easiest way to collect the essential data needed was to add at least one, two-part question to the current form now used by the Hawaii Department of Public Safety’s Corrections Division to intake offenders entering the Hawaii corrections system.

With support from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Public Safety, our working group was able to initiate a pilot project to see the type of data that this legislation would provide. In the month of February 2015, the Department of Public Safety Intake Service

Center Division surveyed all offenders admitted into a community correctional center to determine if they were parents of minor children. The survey was conducted verbally during the facility intake interview with the ISC worker.

Of the 1068 individuals processed at HCCC, KCCC, MCCC, and, OCCC, 33.7 percent reported that they had children under the age of 18. The 270 fathers that were put behind bars in February accounted for 561 children, and the 90 mothers who were imprisoned during this time reported an additional 220 children. This survey did not cross-reference between Men's and Women's prison data bases, and as a result, we do not know the total unduplicated number of children affected, but it is safe to assume that, in just one month, at least 600 children lost one or both of their parents due to incarceration.

We understand that this data is not perfect, and that the road to understanding the real needs of children impacted by incarceration will be a long up-hill battle, but this pilot project was a major first step, and passing SB 913, SD 1 will allow us to continue to move forward in developing programs and obtaining resources to serve this much need population.

Mahalo for allowing us to share this testimony with the Committee.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

February 23, 2015

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
And members of the Committee on Public Safety

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 913 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 913 SD1 Relating to Public Safety.

Children of incarcerated parents experience grief and loss, similar to the experience of divorce or the death of a parent. Children of incarcerated parents are at increased risk of abuse or neglect, and more likely to have mental health problems, and difficulty in school. Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to enter the juvenile or adult correctional systems themselves.

Prisoners who have regular contact with their children are less likely to violate prison rules and create trouble for prison authorities. They are more likely to take advantage of rehabilitation and educational opportunities while in prison. Regular contact with children increases the chances of successful reintegration into the community when a parent is released from prison.

There is currently no method or system in which to track incarcerated parents and their children. This measure would provide a foundation to develop future informed policy that is needed to support opportunities to sustain the parent-child bond while a parent is incarcerated.

Hawaii Youth Services Network believes that children and their incarcerated parents will benefit from the data collection and future programs it will inform that support parents and children in Hawaii's prisons.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 4:18 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: pbstestimony
Cc: robertl@oha.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

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yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:37 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: rbkarasuda@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RaeDeen Karasuda	Individual	Support	No

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SB913

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RaeDeen Karasuda	Chaminade University	Support	No

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yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 6:40 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: ikepono@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	Individual	Support	No

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:36 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: kaimomuhlestein@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimo Muhlestein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:57 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: ds.pups08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Tanimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Tamaki Takada
takadat@hawaii.edu

Thursday, March 19, 2015
10:05 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

SUPPORT TO S.B. 913 S.D. 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

My name is Tamaki Takada, Master's student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I dedicate myself as a children's grief facilitator of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii to supporting those who have been separated from their parents due to incarceration and/or other reasons. The Kids Hurt Too Hawaii is a not-for-profit organization that has provided essential services (i.e. crisis management, peer support groups and mentoring programs, education, training, workshops, and an array of fun activities and events) to over 3,000 children and families in Hawaii at no charge since 2001¹.

The purpose of SB913SD1 is to require intake service centers of the state department of public safety to coordinate the systematic collection of information regarding incarcerated parents and their children, which Hawaii has been pursuing since 2005². The collected data should be the starting point of all consequent studies regarding this population and it should also be the anchor of practitioners' decision-making process. On one hand, researchers in social services could conduct statistical analyses of this population and of community resources utilization based on the primary data. On the other hand, practitioners in corrections could provide individualized treatment, programs, and goal settings based on the obtained information (e.g., Waiawa Correctional Facility offers inmates the program Supporting Keiki of Incarcerated Parents [SKIP], which entails practicing to "become better fathers"³). Since Hawaii's criminal justice system has unique racial proportion⁴, such individualizations could be crucial as much as acknowledging cultural competency.

By these reasons, I would like to ask the committee to pass SB913SD1.
Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

¹ Kids Hurt Too Hawaii. "Celebrating 14 Years of Love." *News Alert: Celebrating 14 Years of Love*. n.p., 14 Feb. 2015. E-mail.

² 2011 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 240; SCR 128 Task Force, *Report to 2006 Legislature: Children of Incarcerated Parents*. Honolulu: 2005; Task Force of Children of Incarcerated Parents, *Report to the Legislature: In Accordance with the Provisions Act 256, SLH 2006*. Honolulu: 2007.

³ Waiawa Correctional Facility. n.d., Web. 18 Mar. 2015.

⁴ Fenster, Jason. "Native Hawaiians Over-Represented in Hawaii's Criminal Justice System." *Justice Policy Institute*. 28 Sept. 2010. Web. 23 Feb. 2015.

yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:01 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: cmalae@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carole Malae-Kato	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the passage of SB913. Collecting data from incarcerated parents will help identify the needs of their children, OUR keiki- our kuleana. Please PASS this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:21 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this important piece of legislation since it take a positive step toward identifying and addressing the needs of children with incarcerated parents by requiring the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. This data is needed to adequate support these children.

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To: pbstestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:33 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: maylingpchung@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mayling Chung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: Kapinapalacat@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM*

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:12 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: tammymar@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM

SB913

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tammy Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB913 which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. Native Hawaiian children may be more likely to experience the trauma of having parents sent to prison, and there is currently no data being collected to identify these children and support more effective programs and services. I believe that if we know more about these keiki, we can better address the challenges they are experiencing. This bill could support long-term access to grant funding, providing consistent services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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TESTIMONY ON SB 913, SD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY

March 19, 2015

10:05 am

Conference Rm. 309

Aloha,

My name is Malia Peters. I am a parent of a child whose father was incarcerated eighteen years ago. I strongly support SB 913 SD1 Relating to Public Safety.

Nineteen years ago my life was forever changed when my husband (now ex-husband) committed a horrible crime sentencing him to a 20 year prison sentence, which left my three-year-old son and I very abruptly in a very difficult situation. While we understood the severity of his crime and prison sentence, we've had a long and challenging road ever since. Helping families of prisoners who are left behind has become a passion in my life, encouraging them that they too can overcome these challenging situations. My testimony is simply because I would like to make the road less tough, so that our state and society can have a better chance of decreasing the cycle of incarceration.

While there are various estimates of the number of children nationwide who have at least one parent that is incarcerated (over 2 million), we have no idea in our State of Hawaii, not even an estimate, of the number of children that are affected. Studies have shown that in terms of negative impacts on children, incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the divorce of parents. When a parent passes away or when parents divorce, families receive a lot of sympathy, love, compassion, and financial support. In Hawaii, to get a divorce families are required to attend "Kids First", a program to help families survive divorce. However, when a parent is sentenced to prison, there is no "program" or "class" to attend, and very often there is no sympathy, rather a "stigma" that is attached to these children. Many family members witnessed or were the victim of the crime, and there is often no emotional or financial assistance. The surviving spouse, significant other, or grandparent is often the sole provider putting physical, emotional, mental, and financial strain on families.

Something more concerning is the evidence that children who have a parent in prison are more likely to become incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing the "cycle of incarceration" that sadly becomes generational in some families.

Having been through this personally, I wish I could be there in person to share with you first hand how difficult this experience was for my son and I. I never wanted to ask for help for fear that I would minimize the horrible crime that my husband had committed and offend the victim and their family. I also didn't ask for help because I was embarrassed to share why my husband was incarcerated. I was afraid what he did would be a reflection on me and my own character. When I became desperate enough to seek assistance, I didn't know where to turn, and when I did try to apply for various types of assistance, we didn't qualify because I was working. My single income however was not sustainable to support my son and I, which forced me to take a second job. My son now lost both his parents, became mute, and we had no medical coverage to get him the emotional support he needed. It was a horrible thing to go through and it is only

by the grace of God, the family I was blessed with, that I am able to stand strong today, with my son grown and by my side, sharing my story with each of you. It's taken me years to talk about this but I am realizing that this may be my purpose in life...to make a difference for others who are going through the same thing.

I recently joined the Hawaii Prisoners Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, who has established a working group to explore the issues surrounding children and families impacted by incarceration. We are called the Family Reunification Working Group (FRWG), the group is comprised of representatives from several organizations and service providers who want to support this population. With support from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Public Safety, our working group was able to initiate a pilot project to see the type of data that this legislation would provide. Just last month (February 2015), the Department of Public Safety Intake Service Center Division surveyed all offenders admitted into a community correctional center to determine if they were parents of minor children. The survey was conducted verbally during the facility intake interview with the ISC worker. We are currently working on compiling the results of this information.

Having data/statistics illustrating the number of children affected by incarceration is critical for so many reasons. At the very least, we need to know as a state and as a society, how many children (especially under the age of 18) are affected. We need to understand who the caregivers are for these children in the parents' absence. This information is important to understand the magnitude of what we think is a concerning issue (is it as bad as we think)? Finally, we need data to enable our state and various organizations to submit for grants that can provide various types of support (physical, emotional, educational, financial) to families who are specifically affected by incarceration.

Some have argued/commented that prisoners won't be truthful on the intake form and won't voluntarily provide this information for fear they will be penalized for child support, or for fear that their children will be taken away from them. I disagree, and feel strongly, that if they fully understood the reason for these questions, and that their family may qualify for help, that they would cooperate and provide the information. I remember my husband feeling helpless and frustrated knowing the hardship we were going through because of his careless acts, which lead to bad behavior behind bars. Participating in answering these questions would be a small thing a prisoner with a family could do while behind bars to improve the circumstances their family is in.

Without this type of basic information, it is very difficult to advocate and seek assistance and opportunities for this unique population. Our state needs help taking care of these children and these families that are affected. We need to reduce the cycle of incarceration and we should do whatever we can to make seeking outside funding opportunities possible.

Mahalo nui to each of you for your service, and for your consideration of this letter of support.

With much aloha and blessings,

Malia Peters



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

SB913SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, 3/19/15; 10:05a.m.; Room 309

Aloha Chairman Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Public Safety. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) supports this bill that will begin to collect intake data on parents in prison and their children.

The AHCC is comprised of sixty seven component clubs throughout Hawaii and sixteen states on the continent. The first club was founded in 1918 by Delegate to Congress Prince Kuhio as a means to advocate on issues impacting the native Hawaiian people. Ninety five years later there are still issues of concern that require the attention of the AHCC.

A study and report by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs two years ago revealed an inordinate number of incarcerated Hawaiians. While the report was informative, there was little known of the children whose parents are in prison. The collection of data at the intake point would not only identify the children but their experiences and needs that could lead to the provision of programs and services.

The children are innocent victims. A first step toward setting things to right for the children is their identification and collection of relevant data.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB913 and we urge its passage.

Contact: Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Service and Housing

Senator Will Espero ,Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker,Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:05 am Conference Room 309

From: Sinead Sims
Myron B. Thompson, School of Social Work, MSW

RE: SB 913 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Aloha, Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero and Members of the Committees!

My name is Sinead Sims and I am a master student at Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. Currently I am conducting a research project on Children of Incarcerated Parents. I wholeheartedly believe in the need for support services for this population, in not only providing prevention and intervention services, but also advocating for their voices in our communities. Many of these children, statistics show us experience varies traumas, which then become internalized or externalized behaviors. We often find that a high percent of children who have an incarcerated parent, end up being incarcerated themselves. They need our support, as a people, community, and society. It is our Kuleana as a community to build these children up, as they are our future. As many of you may know, this cannot be done without data and statistics to tell us where and who are these children, in order to provide the most appropriate services.

I am in Support of SB 913, as I understand it is extremely important for us to build a foundation, what better place to start by identifying who they are and where they are. I have a personal connection to this matter, as I was a child of an incarcerated parent. Growing up on the Island of Kaua'i, my family was not given the opportunity to receive support services as we went through the various traumas a child with this background experiences. However, with various resiliency factors that played into my life, we were able to overcome this. The high rate of incarceration in the state of Hawaii, with a high percentage being Native Hawaiian in our prison systems, and those in the mainland housing our families, many of them having children and families, with this bill it allows us to collect that data to identify the need. Thus brings us to the importance of identifying who are these children, allowing agencies and organizations the numbers necessary to provide the services needed in an effective way.

We cannot be a movement if there is no beginning, we must create that change!
Mahalo nui loa!

I strongly **SUPPORT SB913** which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. Native Hawai'ian children may be more likely to experience the trauma of having parents sent to prison, and there is currently no data being collected to identify these children and support more effective programs and services. I believe that if we know more about these keiki, we can better address the challenges they are experiencing. This bill could support long-term access to grant funding, providing consistent services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

yamashita1-Marianne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 2:39 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: aprilkoka@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB913 on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM

SB913

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for PBS on Mar 19, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cleda A. Kalama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you, I stand in support of SB 913 SD1 and would like you to know this it is crucial that we provide services and support to the children and caregivers of incarcerated parents. These children are, as we know, at high risk, deserve interventions and opportunities to be supported and not left behind. We cannot give up on them. This hidden and hurting population should not go unaided.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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